

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – March 4, 2025

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Lucy Absi-Lopez	Alan Orenstein	Monica Martin	Kelly Gruitt	Yesheगत Assres
Nick Foley		Meredith Peace	Samar Khleif	Angela Belisario
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett		Sara Rose	Michael Mayer	Kathy Estrada
Jennifer Grinnell				Jonathan Hernandez
Daozhong Jin				Katheline Javier
Stephanie Joseph				Fabiola Michel
Renee Johnson				Jane Musya
Susan Kerin				Caroline Ngate
Bethany Lee				Mie Shukutani
Libby Nealis				Scholastica Sunmola
Joi Nolen				Lauren Tenorio
Crystal Reeves				
Celia Serkin				

- I. **Welcome** - The Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) was called to order at 7:04 pm by Libby Nealis, Committee Chair.
- II. **Old Business**
 - A. **Minutes** – The February minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- III. **New Business**
 - A. **LBHA update** – Sara Rose shared that this week was the MoCo Family forum at Gaithersburg High School which provided behavioral health resources and training to parents and others in the community. Monica Martin shared that the County will be using funding for the Diversion Center to bolster the stabilization services (reclining chairs) at the facility in Piccard (adjacent to the crisis center).
 - B. **Mental Health Convening Session** – County Council President Kate Stewart convened stakeholders for a kick-off session on behavioral health needs. Jennifer Grinnell and Joi Nolen reported that over 100 representatives attended. There was a lot of engagement between participants so new relationships were built.
 - C. **Legislative Committee Update** – Libby reported that Medicaid coverage is in jeopardy. Michelle Grisby-Hackett shared that the 988 funding will be through a telecom fee which will provide sustainability. However, the Consortium budget has not been approved and, if not fully funded, could have significant impact. The budget for crisis services is also a concern. Michelle reported back that while advocates have been showing up in Annapolis in record numbers, more voices are needed. Celia Serkin offered to help anyone who wanted to develop written testimony.
 - D. **AODAAC** – Celia reported that the last meeting was a follow up to their legislative retreat. They also had two presenters, including a representative from Montgomery County's Alcohol Beverage Services and from the Chair of the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners.
 - E. **CAYAS update** – Michelle shared that the subcommittee has been working on a survey that can be administered to parent groups. It will also be administered at the Spring Forum. Bethany Lee, Rennee Johnson Katheline Javier, Jonathan Hernandez, and Lauren Tenorio have asked to participate in the subcommittee.
 - F. **Spring Forum** – Diane Lininger reported that the Spring Forum will be May 17th at the East County Campus of Montgomery College. It will be from 9 am to 12 pm. There is a meeting planned tomorrow.
- IV. **Upcoming Meetings**
 - A. **April Meeting** – This will be an in-person meeting on Thursday April 10 at the Department of Health offices on Hungerford Drive. It will be a joint meeting with AODAAC.
 - B. **May Meeting** – There won't be a May Meeting. MHAC members are instead encouraged to attend the Spring Forum on May 17th.

V. Announcements

- A. **United in Service and Support Online Informational Series** – Monica shared that Montgomery County Council is hosting [a webinar](#) for displaced Federal workers on behavioral health services. It will take place on March 6th. and presenters include Dorne Hill with the crisis center and EveryMind about 988
- B. **Resources for Federal Employees** – Celia shared that State Senator Kagan has provided resources for Federal employees who have lost their jobs.
- C. **C&C Advocacy** – Jonathan Hernandez (guest) gave a brief overview of his [employer](#) and the behavioral health services that they provide.

VI. Meeting Adjourned – The MHAC meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.